

GENEVA COUNTY

Honorable Charlie Fleming, Jr.

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Susie Parrish
Kathy Peterson
Toby Seay
Carolyn Shehee
David Snell
Lavonne Stromenger
Charles Thomley
Greg Ward
Sandra Ward
Lance Wave
Don White

Vista Volunteer: Charity Reiter

Council Priorities

1. Adolescent drug use

Drug use among teenagers in Geneva County is at a level to create a great deal of concern among those working with teens. Of particular concern is 'huffing', and members feel youth and adults need to be educated on the dangers of this practice.

2. Drop out rate

Geneva County experiences a high drop out rate, as currently they are ranked 55 out of 67 counties (Kids Count Data). CPC members want to significantly reduce the number of youth who drop out every year.

3. Adolescent vehicular accidents

In the past year Geneva County has experienced a number of adolescent deaths from car accidents. The goal is to educate youth on defensive driving and the dangers of driving under the influence, among other driving practices.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of participation in early intervention services

Action Steps

- 1) Investigate services available for county residents.
- 2) Promote existing programs through community education and make referrals as needed.
- 3) Research and obtain funding for part time person to implement a program for school preparedness.

Parental involvement and skills

Action Steps

- 1) Network to increase participation in existing programs.
- 2) Explore avenues for conducting positive activities.
- 3) Promotion of parents reading to children.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Need for improved work ethic

Action Steps

- 1) Continue and expand Reality Check program.
- 2) Continue Y.E.S. Program.

Lack of business sector involvement in Children's Policy Council

Action Steps

- 1) Conduct membership campaign for CPC.
- 2) Conduct "Bring a Business Buddy" CPC meeting in September.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Family literacy

Action Steps

- 1) Identify families with literacy problems.
- 2) Investigate services/potential services for literacy issues, and then collaborate with existing programs.
- 3) Seek funding to create Family Literacy program.

Drop out rate

Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with all area schools (K-12) to provide tutoring for any student who makes D/F in any subject, starting in the first nine weeks of school.
- 2) Assist tutoring programs in obtaining volunteers.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Childhood obesity

Action Steps

- 1) Conduct public awareness campaign to educate community about the health and psychological consequences of childhood obesity.
- 2) Research funding opportunities to develop an exercise video for adolescents, by adolescents.

Self-esteem of children

Action Steps

- 1) Incorporate self-esteem issue into exercise video.
- 2) Assist in Ropes Course Program.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of parent involvement in Children's Policy Council

Action Steps

- 1) Conduct "Bring a Parent Pal" CPC meeting.
- 2) Distribute CPC pamphlets through schools.

Expand services offered through Family Resource Center

Action Steps

- 1) Offer more classes to benefit families by obtaining funding, researching new programs, expanding existing programs, etc.
- 2) Publish a monthly calendar of events for Family Resource Center.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Adolescent vehicular accidents

Action Steps

- 1) Develop and teach defensive driving course for adolescents utilizing local resources.
- 2) Propose legislative action to require defensive driving education/training.
- 3) Obtain funding from ADECA to increase officers during potentially dangerous adolescent driving times (Prom, Homecoming, spring break, etc.)

Drug use of adolescents

Action Steps

- 1) Bring 'Operation Save Teens' into schools through Agent David Hall.
- 2) Conduct public awareness campaign about the dangers of huffing.
- 3) Create survey for county children/youth about drug tobacco use to determine extent of such use.

Policy Recommendations

- Fund Rural Transportation.
- Increase monetary incentives for foster families.
- Continue/increase funding for sexual abuse programs.
- Continue/increase funding for domestic violence programs.
- Provide funding for drug rehab programs in rural areas.
- Increase funding for alternative education programs (GED programs, etc).

Accomplishments

This past year saw the expansion of the Parent Project/Positive Action programs through the Family Resource Center. The XL! Tutoring program was also expanded throughout the county. Policy Council

Members assisted in providing the Reality Check program in two local schools. A publicity campaign was begun through articles in the local papers and the development of an information brochure. The Geneva County Children's Policy Council developed and approved a mission statement this past year.

Grants Received:

Children's Trust Fund	\$35,000	For Family Resource Center & Programs
ADECA/LETS	\$40,000	For Family Resource Center & Programs
River Region United Way	\$25,000	For Family Resource Center & Program
Youth Tobacco Prevention/Control	\$26,950	For Family Resource Center & Program
Governor's At-Risk	\$33,109	For XL! Tutoring Program